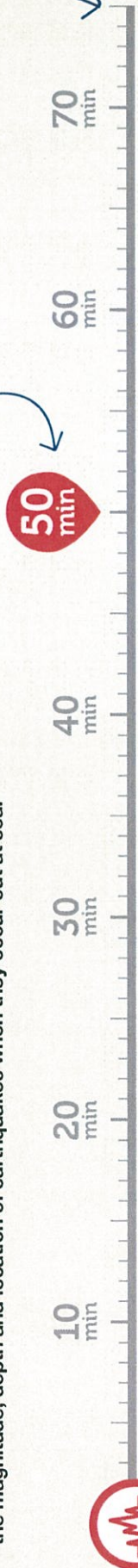


WHY IS THERE NO TIME FOR OFFICIAL WARNINGS?

There are plenty of earthquake sensors on land, but it takes time to accurately assess the magnitude, depth and location of earthquakes when they occur out at sea.

It can take 40 - 75 minutes before our local region can make an informed decision about whether to issue an evacuation order.

The most devastating tsunami would take between 50 - 60 minutes to arrive after the initial quake.



AUTOMATED ALERTS	NATIONAL ASSESSMENT	NATIONAL WARNING	LOCAL ASSESSMENT	DECISION	ACTION
Automated alert notification systems include GEONET and Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre. These alerts are indicative only. They are not automatically instant or accurate and they need verification. Many people receive this information, including media.	The national MCDEM panel (Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management) assesses all available information.	A warning is sent to local Emergency Management groups.	Each local Emergency Management group must assess the threat level for their own area.	The decision to issue an evacuation order is not made lightly.	Official local response. If a formal evacuation is required, this is the soonest it will be issued.

! If you wait for sirens or text messages before you evacuate, you will lose essential lifesaving minutes. That is why the earthquake is still the most reliable warning sign. Longer distance tsunami that are generated across the Pacific can take up to 12 hours to arrive, so there is more time to issue official warnings in those situations.